

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 02020 111312Z  
ACTION SIG-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 653

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 2020

FI CHANNEL

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASIG, CT  
SUBJ: INSPECTION OF POST

REF: STATE 212834

1. STATE OF RELATIONS. U.S. INTERESTS IN CAE ARE LIMITED. OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE EMERGING FROM NADIR OF 1977, DURING WHICH TIME HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HERE AND CRITICISM OF OPULENT IMPERIAL CORONATION CEREMONIES RESULTED IN SUSPENSION OF NEW U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. RESIDUAL PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, ALTHOUGH CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS OF CAE PERSEVERE IN EFFORTS TO DISCONTINUE ALL DIRECT ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING PEACE CORPS, AND ALL INDIRECT ASSISTANCE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS. THE CURRENT, GENERAL TONE OF OUR RELATIONS IS GOOD, AND THE GOCAE HAS BEEN GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

2. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS:

A. MISSION MANAGEMENT IS COMPLICATED BY POST'S STEPCHILD RELATIONSHIP TO USAID AND USICA. AID PRESENCE IN CAE TOTALS THREE CONTRACTORS. PC ALSO HEAVILY INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING RESIDUAL AID PROGRAMS, ALL OF WHICH ADMINISTERED BY AID OFFICE IN YAOUNDE. POST'S ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFER ALSO WEARS APAO HAT AND ADMINISTERS RELATIVELY ACTIVE CULTURAL PROGRAM. MISSION  
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EFFECTIVENESS IN ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF AID AND USICA EACH HAD AN OFFICER AT POST. THESE PROBLEMS ARE, HOWEVER, INTIMATELY TIED TO ONGOING BILATERAL RELATIONS PROBLEMS (IN WASHINGTON) STEMMING FROM 1977 EVENTS.

B. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. (1) EXIMBANK HAS OUTSTANDING \$7 MILLION LOAN TO GOCAE DATING FROM 1971 UNDER WHICH GT AND E CONSTRUCTED MICROWAVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM. PARTIES HAVE DISCUSSED RE-

SCHEDULING, BUT GOCAE REMAINS IN ARREARS. (2) MOBILOIL AND TEXACO HAVE COMBINED CLAIMS OF OVER \$2 MILLION FOR EARLIER EXPROPRIATIONS. GOCAE AND OIL COMPANIES HAVE DISCUSSED "MODALITIES" OF PAYMENTS.

C. POST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) PERSONNEL: AMERICAN EMPLOYEES. DURING PAST TWO YEARS, BANGUI HAS HAD TURNOVER OF 20 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES COMPARED WITH AUTHORIZED COMPLEMENT OF TEN. FOUR STAFF EMPLOYEES HAVE HAD TOURS SHORTENED TO 18 MONTHS. PART OF PROBLEM COULD BE INADEQUATE ORIENTATION PRIOR TO ARRIVAL. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY TWO CURRENT EMPLOYEES HERE HAVE TAKEN FSI TWO-WEEK SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN STUDIES COURSE. STAFF EMPLOYEES RARELY HAVE MORE THAN SIX WEEKS LANGUAGE TRAINING WHICH IS INSUFFICIENT.

(2) MEDICAL: DURING PAST TWO YEARS. TWO TOURS OF DUTY WERE SHORTENED TO LESS THAN 18 MONTHS FOR MEDICAL REASONS. LOCAL MEDICAL CARE REMAINS A MAJOR PROBLEM AND IS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT ONLY ONE LOCAL DOCTOR SPEAKS ENGLISH. THE PEACE CORPS/EMBASSY HEALTH UNIT IS STAFFED BY ONE TCN CONTRACT NURSE AND IS VISITED, TWO-THREE MONTHS EACH YEAR, BY THE REGIONAL PEACE CORPS DOCTOR. STATE DEPARTMENT MEDICAL VISITS - REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER AND REGIONAL NURSE - THREE OR FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR, FOR A FEW DAYS EACH TIME, ARE HARDLY ADEQUATE.

(3) GENERAL SERVICES:  
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A. NEW OFFICE BUILDING. RENOVATION WORK ON OUR NEW OFFICE BUILDING HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR 18 MONTHS. WE HOPE TO MOVE SOON (OCTOBER) AND WOULD APPRECIATE TDY ASSISTANCE FROM THE RSO, SEABEES, AND PERHAPS AN AF/EX ROVER TO ASSIST OUR SMALL STAFF WITH THE LOGISTICS OF THE MOVE.

B. PURCHASE OF NOB. OUR NEW BUILDING WAS LEASED TWO YEARS AGO, UNDER A LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT APPROVED BY FBO. FBO DID NOT REQUEST AN APPRAISAL UNTIL SIX MONTHS AFTER RENOVATION WORK STARTED. BY THAT TIME, IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO HAVE A PRE-RENOVATION APPRAISAL. TO AVOID FUTURE PROBLEMS ON OTHER PROJECTS WORLD-WIDE, WE SUGGEST THAT FBO REQUIRE AN APPRAISAL PRIOR TO APPROVING A LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT.

C. MOTOR VEHICLES. POST HAS TWO 1976 CHEVROLET NOVAS WITH IDENTICAL ENGINES, FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND DC. THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONSIDERING ORDERING REPLACEMENTS IN FY 79. POST HAS SAVED HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS AND MONTHS OF WAITING TIME ON SPARE-PARTS PURCHASES BECAUSE BOTH VEHICLES USE THE SAME PARTS. AS THIS WAS FORTUITOUS RATHER THAN DIRECT PLANNING, GIVEN GSA PROCUREMENT PRACTICES, POST WOULD APPRECIATE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION THAT REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE TWO VEHICLES SHOULD ALSO HAVE IDENTICAL ENGINES. SUCH RECOMMENDATION MAY BE APPLICABLE AT OTHER AF POSTS.

D. PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY. WACASC IS OUR ONLY SOURCE FOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, MEDICINES, MECHANICAL TYPEWRITERS AND REPAIR OF IBM SELECTRICS. RECENTLY, AF/EX ADVISED THEY WERE CONSIDERING DROPPING MEDICINES FROM THE WACASC LINE. COUPLED WITH THE ELIMINATION OF OFFICE SUPPLIES IN FY 76, WACASC THUS PROVIDES LESS ASSISTANCE THAN IT DID IN THE PAST.

E. COMMISSARY. AECAWA AT WACASC IS OUR ONLY SOURCE OF COMMISSARY GOODS. WITH THE CONVERSION OF WACASC FROM AN APPROPRIATED FUND TO A WORKING CAPITAL FUND ACTIVITY, COMMISSARY PRICES TO THE CONSUMER WILL RISE. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT AECAWA WILL NO LONGER OFFER A FIVE PERCENT DISCOUNT TO MEMBER POSTS FOR CASH PAYMENT, AN INCREASE WE WILL HAVE TO PASS ON TO THE CONSUMER. THIS WILL MAKE AECAWA PRICES, WHICH IN SOME CASES ARE ALREADY HIGHER THAN LOCAL ECONOMY PRICES, LESS CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPETITIVE. POST HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT IN SEPTTEL IF POST ALLOWANCE (COLA) WILL BE INCREASED TO COVER THESE COSTS.

3. EVALUATION. GIVEN MIX OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND U.S. INTERESTS, POST HAS DONE QUITE WELL OVERALL. SPECIFIC PROGRAM OBJECTIVES MEANT TO IMPLEMENT OVERALL POLICIES OFFER VAST OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT, HOWEVER. HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS REFLECTS INADEQUACIES OF INFRASTRUCTURE HERE, BOTH OF CAE ITSELF AND OUR OWN.  
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